

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01 /078 W

----- 040016

R 020908Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY QA SA TC KU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. KL A-119, 9/12/74

B. KL A-92, 7/18/74

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND PERSIAN GULF STATES IN LATE JANUARY AS PART OF MALAYSIAN MOVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE DEC. 31, PM RAZAK ANNOUNCED HE WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, KUWAIT AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IN LATE JANUARY "TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS."

ALSO, RAZAK'S VERY BRIEF (AND OTHERWISE UNNOTEWORTHY) DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ISSUES IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE SINGLED OUT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN LATE JUNE 1974 AS "HELPING TO BRING MALAYSIA CLOSER IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY MIDDLE EASTERN STATES."

3. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, RAZAK WILL DEPART O/A JAN. 15 AND SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS OR SO IN MIDDLE EAST. IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER RAZAK PLANS VISIT OTHER ME CAPITALS INFORMALLY OR FOR REST PURPOSES, BUT WE HAVE HEARD THAT TEHRAN IS ON ITINERARY ALSO. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PARLIAMENT DEC. 20 APPROVED GOM PARTICIPATION IN ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK; ENABLING LEGISLATION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SPECIFY LEVEL OF GOM CONTRIBUTION TO BANK. GOM HAS INCREASED INTEREST IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH ME NATIONS AS ILLUSTRATED BY NOV-DEC TRADE MISSION TO BAHRAIN, OMAN, DUBAI, QATAR, KUWAIT, LEBANON AND IRAN WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN APPROX US\$7 MILLION SALES OF FOOD, ELECTRONICS GEAR, TIMBER PRODUCTS, FOOTWARE, PEWTER AND HANDICRAFTS. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, DELEGATION (WHICH INCLUDED GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES) FELT THERE IS GREAT LONG-TERM POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN MALAYSIAN TRADE WITH MIDDLE EAST, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT LACK OF REGULARLY-SCHEDULED SHIPPING TO ME AND PERSIAN GULF PORTS IS RESTRAINING FACTOR.

4. COMMENT: TOGETHER WITH PROMOTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) AND IDENTIFICATION WITH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, EFFORT TO HEIGHTEN RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS IS PRINCIPAL STRAIN IN CURRENT GOM FOREIGN POLICY. GOM HAS IN RECENT MONTHS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERSIAN GULF STATES (REF A) AND SEVERAL ME NATIONS INCLUDING LIBYA AND IRAQ HAVE OPENED EMBASSIES HERE. HOLDING OF FIFTH ISLAMIC FONMINS' CONF IN KL (REF B), AS PM RAZAK NOTED IN HIS NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS, ENHANCED MALAYSIA'S IDENTIFICATION WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS AND ME NATIONS IN PARTICULAR. RAZAK'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND PERSIAN GULF, THEN, REPRESENTS CONTINUING EFFORT TO CULTIVATE THESE RELATIONS, THOUGH WE NOTE RAZAK'S TOUR IS LIMITED TO MORE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, MY, QA, SA, TC, KU, (RAZAK BIN HUSSIEEN)  
**To:** STATE  
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